

WELCOME!

Route MM Environmental Study

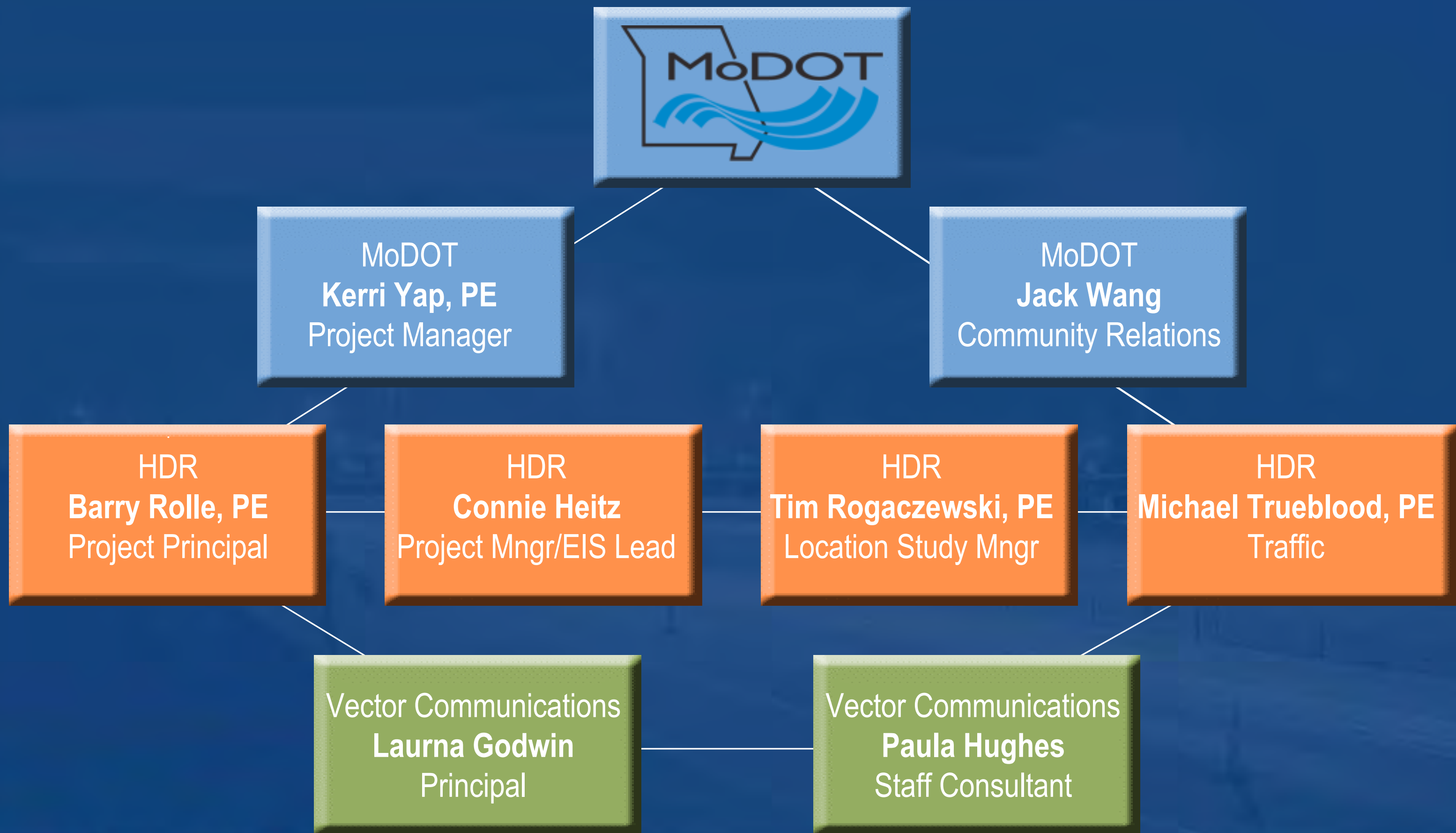
**PUBLIC
OPEN HOUSE**

TODAY'S PURPOSE

- Introduce study team
- View study's goals
- Review study process and timetable
- Get your input

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY TEAM

Route MM Study Team



WHY AN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY?

- To evaluate the potential environmental impacts and comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental regulations
- To fulfill NEPA requirements for future federal funding
- To find environmental impact of major transportation improvements for the Federal Highway Administration and MoDOT
- To evaluate reasonable alternatives to the existing condition

GENERAL STUDY AREA



STUDY PROCESS

Major Transportation Investment Analysis (MTIA) (1998-2002)

Long-term planning study conducted for overall transportation needs on Route MM. Recommended safety improvements on existing road and a new alignment from Heads Creek Road southwest to Route 30.

Safety Improvements (2005-2010)

MoDOT added shoulders and straightened Route MM between Duda Drive and Sycamore Springs Road. There are also additional improvements planned.

Evaluate Environmental Impacts of the Alternatives / Prepare Draft EIS

Prepare a draft EIS to assess the environmental impacts of the alternatives.

Public Hearing on Draft EIS / Comment Period

The affected public has a forum to comment on the draft EIS.

Prepare Final EIS

Response to substantive comments on the Draft EIS, make necessary revisions, and prepare Final EIS.

Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (2007-2010)

Analyze existing and future conditions, develop alternatives, and determine environmental impacts. Here are the steps along the way. . .

Public Scoping Meeting

Opportunity for residents and the affected public to provide input early in the project.

Develop Purpose and Need, Alternatives

Define the need for the project and develop a range of alternatives to address the defined project purpose and need.

Public Meeting

Opportunity for residents and the affected public to provide input on the Project Purpose and Need and the alternatives selected for evaluation.

Record of Decision (ROD)

Final decision on selected alternative is made by FHWA.

WE ARE
HERE

STUDY GOALS

The MTIA's goals and objectives will be the basis for defining the "Purpose and Need" for the Route MM Environmental Study.

Short-term Goals

- Ensure safety
- Relieve localized congestion
- Reduce flooding impacts
- Promote resource conservation

Long-term Goals

- Preserve existing infrastructure
- Encourage sustainable development
- Efficiently move goods
- Provide access to opportunity

The MTIA's goals and objectives will be revisited to determine:

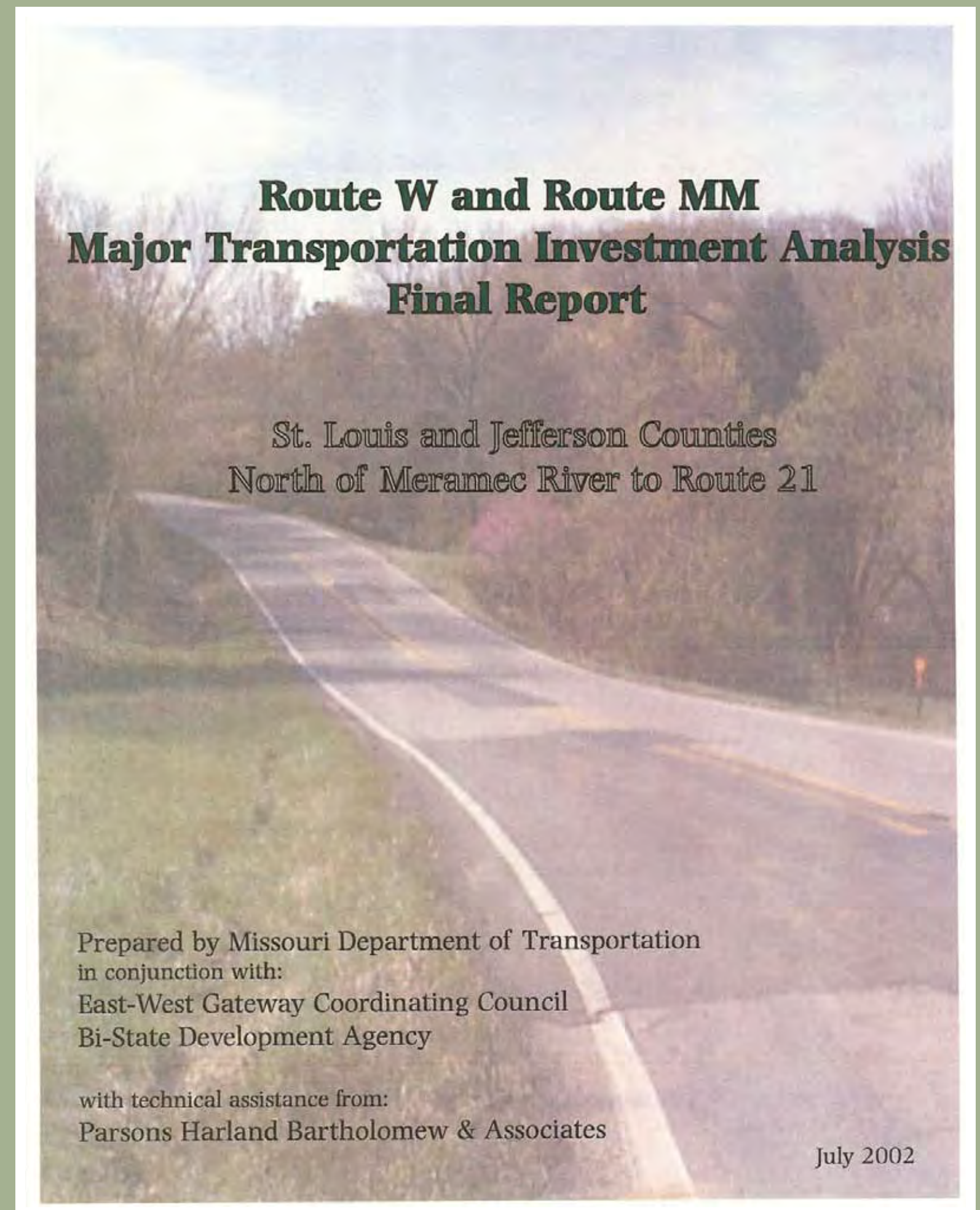
- Is the data and information still relevant and valid?
- What changes have occurred in the area since the MTIA was completed?
- What effect do these changes have on the problems defined in the MTIA?

What do you think?

PLANNING HISTORY

The Major Transportation Investment Analysis (MTIA):

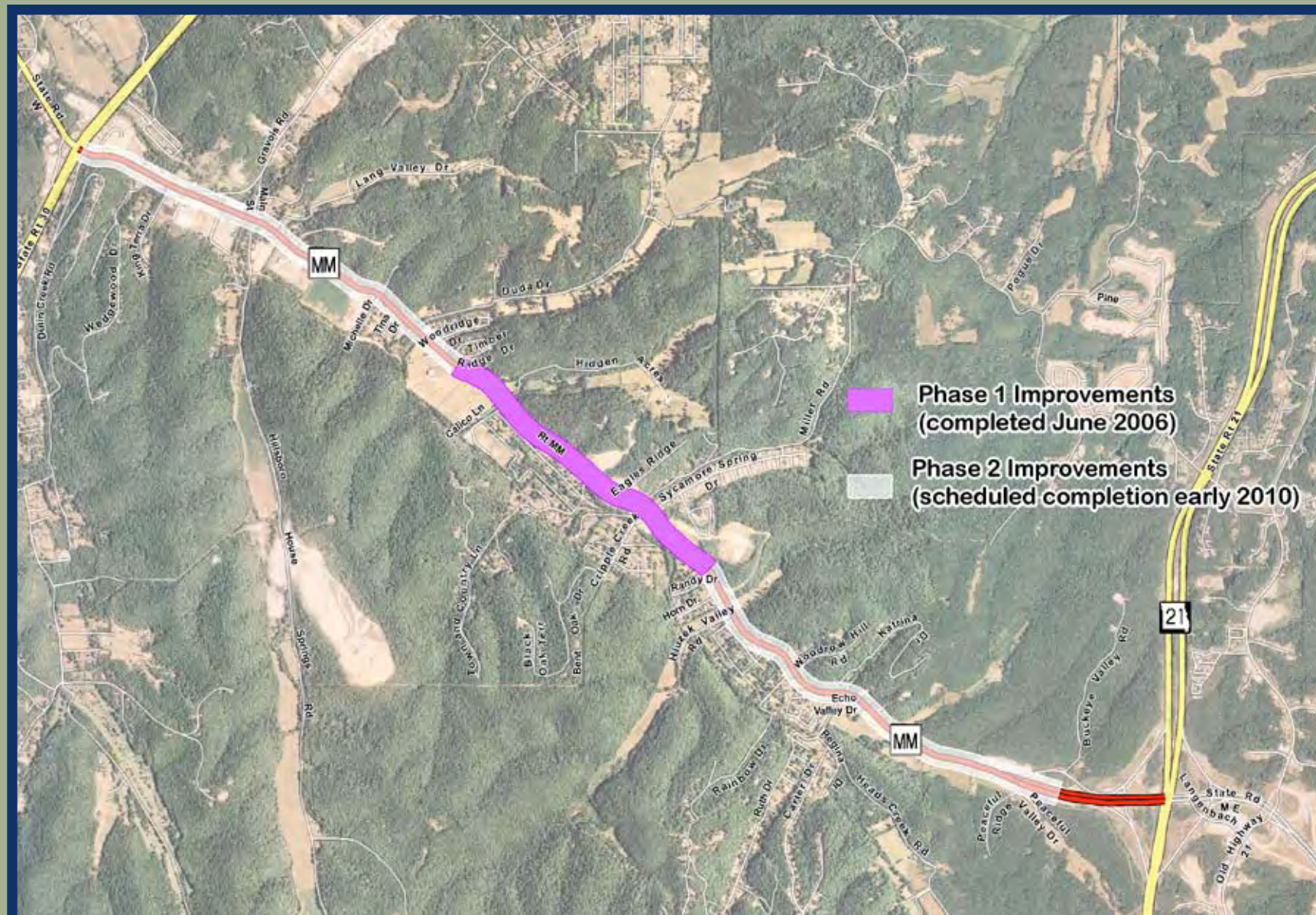
- Was conducted between 1998 and 2002
- Identified problems in the corridor as safety, localized congestion, and resource conservation
 - Hilly, narrow, winding road on steep terrain
 - Projected traffic volumes approaching or exceeding capacity for 2-lane roadway
 - High accident rate
- Concluded with Locally Preferred Alternative
 - Safety improvements to existing road
 - New 2-lane alignment to address problems and meet 2020 travel demand



MTIA

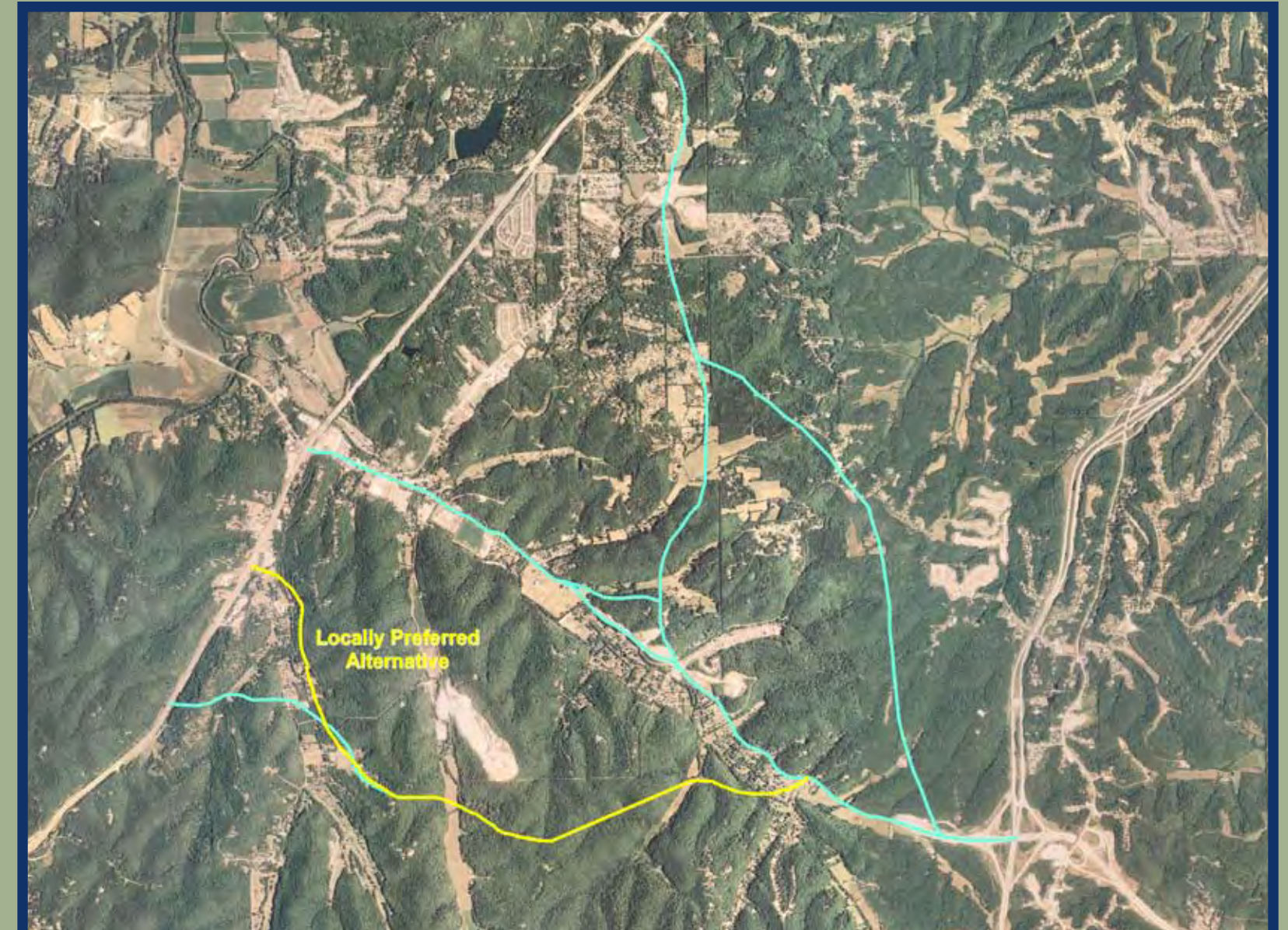
LOCALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Short-Term



- Realignment in some areas, flattening crests and curves, and adding left turn lanes, shoulders, guardrails, and rumble stripes

Long-Term



- Five alignments were studied
- LPA alignment connects Route MM from Heads Creek Road to Route 30 approximately ¾ mile south of Routes MM/30 intersection

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

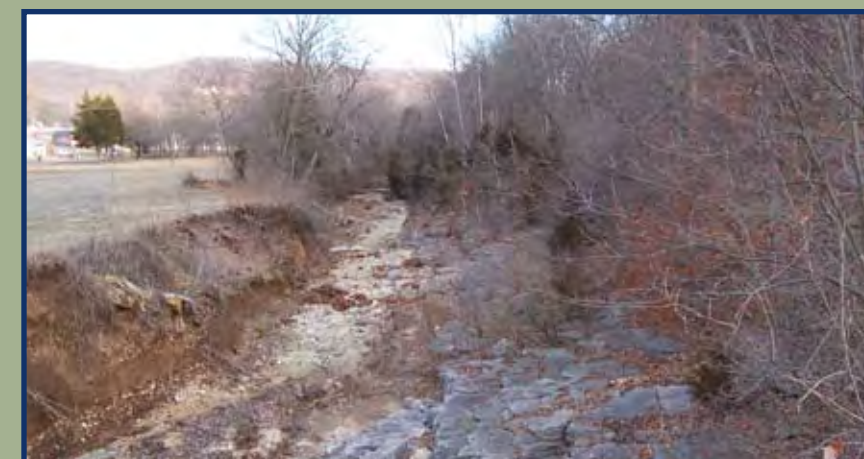
MTIA	ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required by Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Required by National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Studied Route W and Route MM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will study only Route MM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Did not include a detailed analysis of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will include a detailed analysis of the social, economic and environmental impacts of various alternatives
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed and assessed various minor and major transportation alternatives to address transportation needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will assess and select an alternative that can be submitted for federal funding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only involved MoDOT and local agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Will involve federal, state, tribal, and local environmental, regulatory, and resources agencies

WHAT WILL BE EVALUATED?

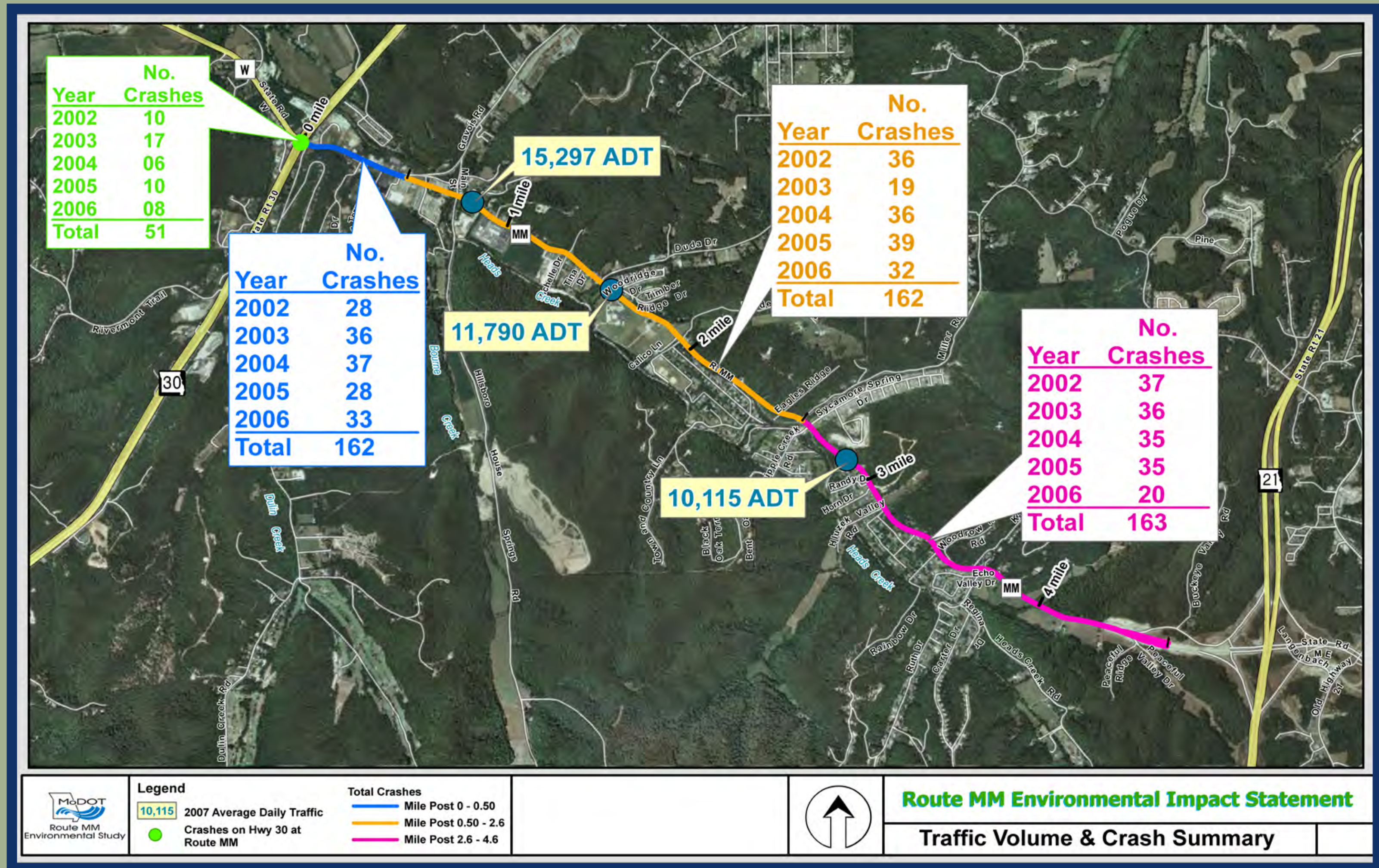


Potential impacts the study alternatives may have on the following:

- Land Use
- Socioeconomic Characteristics
- Community Resources
- Parks and Recreation
- Traffic
- Hazardous Materials
- Geology and Soils
- Prime Farmland
- Water Quality
- Wetlands and Floodplains
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Ecological Resources (vegetation, wildlife, threatened and endangered species)
- Cultural Resources (historic properties, archaeological sites)
- Visual Resources



EXISTING CONDITIONS



STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

In November and December, 20 Stakeholder interviews were conducted with elected officials, civic and community leaders and citizens.

Here is a summary of what they told us:

- Address safety
- Improve accessibility in the corridor
- Consider East-West corridor improvements
- Ensure continued participation from long-term interested parties
- Publish study schedule and progress

ROUTE MM COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

A Community Advisory Group has been formed composed of representatives knowledgeable of Jefferson County's residents, businesses, transportation history and needs who will:

- Help disseminate project information
- Inform study team of public sentiment
- Provide input on key issues
- Serve as study ambassadors

Members are advisors to the study team. While MoDOT will consider all citizen input, the agency will ultimately be responsible for making the final decisions.

YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED!

We need your comments tonight. Please complete a comment form.

Here's how the study team will inform you:

- Open Houses
- Community Advisory Group
- Newsletters
- www.Modot.Mo.gov

CONTACT US

Here's how you can contact us:

- Web site (www.Modot.Mo.gov)
- Email us at
MMenvironmentalstudy@modot.mo.gov
- Hotline (1-888-ASK MoDOT)
- Write Us: Route MM, c/o Vector Communications, 701 N. 15th Street, Mailbox 43, St. Louis, MO 63103

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Study team will draft Purpose and Need Statement
- Study team will develop and screen preliminary alternatives
- Resource agencies and public will comment on study
- Next public meeting will be held in summer 2008